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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Note verbale dated 11 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations has the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by Fidel V. Ramos, President of the Philippines, informing the Secretary-General of the outcome of the recently concluded International Conference on Counter-Terrorism, held at Baguio City in February 1996, the first such conference in the Asia-Pacific region. Also attached is a copy of the Baguio Communiqué, which was issued by 128 delegates from 19 countries, calling for the strengthening of multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the fight against international terrorism in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and international standards of human rights.

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Annex I

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am pleased to inform you that the Philippines recently hosted an International Conference on Counter-Terrorism. The holding of the Conference was consistent with previous United Nations resolutions on anti-terrorism.

The Conference, which was the first such conference held in the Asia-Pacific region, was successfully conducted in Baguio City from 18 to 21 February 1996 and was attended by a total of 128 distinguished delegates from 19 countries.

The Conference was aimed at enhancing cooperation and unity among the participating countries in the fight against international terrorism. Specifically, the Conference was intended to achieve the following objectives: (a) sharing experiences in the fight against terrorism; (b) formulating broad strategies and common policies against international terrorism; (c) establishing a mechanism for the exchange of intelligence information on international terrorism; and (d) exploring the possibility of conducting joint operations. I am pleased to inform you that the Conference was able to attain these stated objectives.

The participants were divided into three workshops representing policy, intelligence exchange and counter-measures. The Baguio Communiqué was subsequently issued by the participants, calling for the strengthening of multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the fight against international terrorism in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and international standards of human rights.

We are optimistic that the Conference will serve as a starting point for better cooperation and support among free nations in the fight against international terrorism.

(Signed) Fidel V. RAMOS
President of the Republic
of the Philippines

Annex II

BAGUIO COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON 22 FEBRUARY 1996

The representatives of 19 States from different parts of the world came together on 18-21 February 1996 at Baguio City, the Philippines, to enhance international cooperation against all forms of terrorism.

After intensive discussions, the delegates expressed their collective commitment to combat terrorism, taking into consideration the following fundamental principles:

- Terrorist acts are crimes and all legally available means should be used to counter them;
- Combating terrorism requires cooperative efforts;
- There must be no sanctuary for terrorists;
- There must be no compromise in the fight against terrorism;
- Counter-terrorism measures must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and international standards of human rights; and
- Countries that have not yet acceded to treaties and conventions on terrorism are urged to do so as a matter of highest priority.

The delegates shared the view that there is an urgent need to promote the following:

- The strengthening of multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the coordination of policy and action against terrorism;
- The enhancement of international cooperation and coordination in law enforcement and intelligence sharing, and in preventing the illicit traffic in and use of explosives, weapons and nuclear, chemical and biological materials;
- The enhancement of mechanisms for effective immigration control and protection of the integrity of travel documents;
- Development of international means of intelligence exchange to facilitate the flow of critical information, in particular on terrorists and terrorist organizations, their movement and funding, and also information needed to protect life, property and security of transportation;
- Cooperation in the areas of training and exchange of information on technologies needed to combat terrorism; and

- Effective policies and laws to ensure prompt apprehension, investigation, bringing to justice or extradition of terrorists by means of bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or other arrangements by concerned States.

The meeting was characterized by the spirit of utmost cordiality and friendship among the delegates and close international cooperation.